3—Village Panchayats—Rs. 2,29,803.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 2,29,803 under 3—Village Panchayats. I request the House may be pleased to sanction the grant.

Motion No. 92.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.— "*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,554 for Establishment by Re. 1. To request the Government to construct a bridge across Moozhikkal Thodu in the Meloor Village*".

Sir, this work has been suggested by the Meloor Panchayat. This has been requested by them for the last so many years. Last year I also informed the Director of Public Health that this work should be undertaken. There have been several cases of drowning in the winter season. Besides this bridge if constructed, will add to the facilities for going to Edathakkavu temple. Very many pilgrims who are going to this temple have to cross this thodu and they are put to a lot of difficulties. This is a very urgent work. I request the Government to see that this work is done as soon as possible.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—Sir, this question is being enquired into. A cost report is being prepared. It may amount to Rs. 2,500 and the work will be attended to as early as possible.

Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 93.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,554 for establishment by Re. 1. To request the Government to construct a road connecting Kalletinkara with Thazhakkad Church*".

Sir, this request has been made for so many years before. At one time the Government granted the request. It was also said that this work would be included in last year's budget. But that has not been done, nor in this years' budget as well. This is a very urgent necessity and the Hon'ble Member for Public Health must have himself realised it on his personal visit to the place.

Dr.E . S. R. Menon.—Sir, the question of this road has been already considered. We will provide for this work in 1113

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if funds are available. It is 4 miles 2 furlongs long and will cost about 15 thousand rupees.

Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 94.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,554 for Establishment by Re. 1. To request the Government to open Visha Vaidyasalas at Chalakkudi and Kodakara*".

Sir, I find increased provision in this budget for opening Visha Vaidiasalas. I may inform the House that Chalakudy is infested with snakes. I think the Government will sympathetically consider the starting of these Visha Vaidyasalas. It will not cost much.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ— ചാലക്കുടിയിൽ വിഷവൈദ്യശാലകളുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ കൊടകരയിൽ ഇല്ല. കൊടകരയിൽ ജനങ്ങളും കൂടുതലാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ചാലക്കുടിയിൽ വിഷവൈദ്യശാല സ്ഥാപിയ്ക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ കൂടുതൽ ജനങ്ങളുള്ള കൊടകരയിലെങ്കിലും വിഷവൈദ്യശാല വച്ചുകിട്ടിയാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—I do not agree with the Hon'ble Member. Chalakudy is the more important place.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—Sir, I should like to read a paragraph of the Government Order regarding the opening of Visha Vaidiasalas in the State. "In cases of poison treatment it is very necessary that no time should be lost in starting the treatment. For want of a sufficient number of Visha Vaidyans people however find it very difficult to get this done. Therefore Government proposes to enlist the services of the large number of Ayurvedic physicians who are at present scattered throughout the State.

The intention of the Darbar is to select a hundred of these physicians and give them sufficient training in the Ayurvedic methods of poison treatment so that when they return to their homes they may be able to render first-aid in cases of poison".

We have till now got trained about 75 vaidians and this policy will be continued for some time more.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.— ഫ്രഫറ-ൽ വല്ല വിഷവൈദ്യശാലകളും തുറക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

ഡാക്ടർ ഇ. എസ്സ്. ആർ മേനോൻ.— ഇല്ല.

Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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Motion No. 95.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,554 for Establishment by Re. 1. To request the Government to complete the Palappuzha-Pothussery Road in the Kaloor Thekkumury Village*".

Sir, this does not come in my constituency but it is just to help a neighbour that I have tabled this motion (Laughter). This work will not cost the Government very much being only 3 or 4 furlongs long. This work has been several times requested to be taken up by the Kaloor Thekkumury Panchayat.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—Sir, as the Hon'ble said the road is only 4 furlongs long and would cost about Rs. 1,900. The work will be taken up according to the availability of funds.

Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 96.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,342 for Panchayat Department by Re. 1. The necessity for bettering the present lot of the Panchayat Vaidyans*".

പഞ്ചായത്തു വൈദ്യന്മാർക്കു് അവധി കിട്ടുവൻ നിയമമില്ലെന്നുള്ള ഒരു ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ടു്. ആ കാര്യത്തിനായിട്ടാണു് ഞാൻ ഈ കട്ടമോഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

I have stated in the cut motion itself that I have tabled this to point out the necessity for bettering the present lot of the Panchayat Vydians.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—These Panchayat Vydians are not included among the members of the ordinary establishment. They are now paid from funds allowed to Panchayats from the General Revenue of the State by way of contributions. Their services are not subject to any check at the hands of any officer of the Government. They are more honorary physicians than paid servants of the State.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—You mean the present Panchayat Vydians?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—Yes. Their pay is debited to Contingencies and they are not obliged to keep service books, etc. There is no possibility for checking their services.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമപാട്ടയ്യർ.— ഇവർക്കു് അവധിയില്ലാതെ പോകാമോ?

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Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—They can very well go.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.— പഞ്ചായത്തു വൈദ്യന്മാക്ക് സക്കാരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ നിലയിലുള്ള എല്ലാ സൌകര്യങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിരിയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഒരു വൈദ്യന് വൈദ്യശാലവിട്ടു പോകണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പഞ്ചായത്തിന്റെ അനുവാദം വേണം. അവക്ക് സക്കാരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെപ്പോലെ ഏതു ദിവസം കാഷ്വൽ ലീവു് എടുക്കാം. എന്നാൽ പ്രിവിലേജു ലീവുമാത്രം ഇല്ല.

ഡാക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ.— ട്രാൻസ്ഫർ ഉണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.— പ്രിവിലേജുലീവു് ഒഴിച്ചുള്ള ബാക്കി എല്ലാ സൌകര്യങ്ങളും അവക്കുണ്ടെന്നാണു പഞ്ചായത്തു ഡയറക്ടർ അവർകൾ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞതു്.

ഈ വൈദ്യശാലകൾ ടെമ്പററിയായിട്ടാണു നടത്തുന്നതെങ്കിൽ അവയെ ഇങ്ങിനെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നിട്ടു കാര്യമില്ല. ആയുർവ്വേദ വൈദ്യശാലകളെല്ലാം ഈ രാജ്യത്തു സ്ഥിരമായി താമസിയ്ക്കുവാൻ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളവയാണെന്നാണു് എന്റെ ബോദ്ധ്യം. ആ സ്ഥിതിയ്ക്കു് അവയെക്കുടി മറ്റുള്ളവയുടെ ക്രൂട്ടത്തിൽ ചേർത്താൽ എന്താണു തരക്കേടുണ്ടാകുന്നതു്? അതുകൊണ്ടു പഞ്ചായത്തു വൈദ്യന്മാക്കു പ്രിവിലേജു ലീവുകൂടി അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുക. അതിനു പാർലിമെന്ററി അനുവാദം ഒന്നും വരുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. കൊച്ചീ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ഉത്സാഹിച്ചു സാധിച്ചുതന്നാൽ മതി.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—If they are honorary then they cannot be transferred. According to the definition given by the Finance Member these people get only a kind of allowance. If it is honorary it does not follow that we could transfer people from one place to another. If they are liable to be transferred it is very difficult for them to get practice in the new place. I know of one person who has been transferred from one end of the Cochin State to another end of the State. He is finding it difficult to build up a practice in the new place. What I say is that either you must pay them substantially or they should not be transferred at all.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—I know of one instance; the Vydian now at Thiruvilvamala belongs to Irinjalakuda.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.— സർ, ലീവുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിന്റെ തത്വം ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതൊന്നുമല്ല. പൂർണ്ണമായ ഗവൺമെൻറു സർവ്വീസിലുള്ളവക്കു് ഏതു തത്വമനുസരിച്ചാണോ, ഏതാവശ്യം പ്രമാണിച്ചാണോ ലീവുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു് ആ ആവശ്യം ഇവക്കും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കും. മറ്റുള്ളവരുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ ഇവക്കും ഉണ്ടോ എന്നാണു പ്രധാനമായി നോക്കേണ്ടതു്. പെൻഷനും കുടികിട്ടുന്നവക്കു പ്രിവിലേജു ലീവു് എടുക്കാനവ

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കാശമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഇവക്ക് ഒരു പെൻഷനുമില്ല, പ്രിവിലേജ് ലീവെങ്കിലും വേണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു വലിയ തെറ്റാണോ?

അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവൺമെൻറു സ്ഥിരമായ സർവ്വീസിലുള്ളവർക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നതായ ഒരു അവകാശം ഏതാവശ്യം പ്രമാണിച്ചാണോ അതേ ആവശ്യം ഇവർക്കുമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ആ അവകാശം ഇവർക്കും കൊടുക്കണം. ഇതിനു വലിയ വിഷമങ്ങളൊന്നുമില്ല. ഇവർക്കിപ്പോൾ പെൻഷൻ് അവകാശമില്ല. അതും വേണമെന്നു തോന്നിയാൽ കൊടുക്കട്ടെ.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—It is true that their pay is debited to contingencies and the sevice rules are not applicable to them. The question has been considered by Government and it will be gone into again. If it is found that they should be taken to the regular service, then they will be taken.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Then why do you transfer them?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—They were transferred at their own request.

Mr. P. J. Alexander.—Do not the doctors at the rural dispensaries get privilege leave?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—They get privilege leave; but they get no allowance.

Mr. President.—I think this question is better to be examined by the Advisory Committee.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon.—I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 97.

Mr. P. J. Alexander.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 24,067 for communications by Re. 1. To stress the necessity of taking up the construction of the Konam—Pallurithy road*".

Before moving the cut I would like to be informed whether the road in question has already been sanctioned by the Panchayat Department?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—It has been sanctioned but the provision was not made in this year's budget. But it will receive the early attention of the Government.

Mr. P. J. Alexander.—What I have to state is that the road is very urgently needed there and since the Director of

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Public Health and Panchayats assures me that he will bestow his early attention in the matter I beg to withdraw the motion.

Motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 98.

Mr. P. J. Alexander.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 37,233 for water supply by Re. 1. To request the Government to open a public tank in the southern side of Kumbalangy*".

This also is a very urgent affair. Government has been pleading paucity of funds. But that does not mean that the people there should suffer. With the exception of one tank to the north of Kumbalangi which is being maintained clean, only recently, the people of the place are put to extreme hardships in the matter of bathing in the summer months. That is a place where water is hopelessly bad so that the people are susceptible to bad diseases like elephentiasis. The richer classes of the people generally escape to Alwaye and other places in summer. But the poor people remain suffering. On behalf of the poor people especially therefore I request the Government to make speedy facilities to open a public tank—at least one—in Kumbalangy which lies out of the way of the pipe lines extended to the southern parts of the State.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—No such necessity has been brought to the notice of the Government. If it is brought to the Government it will be enquired into and necessary action taken.

Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 99.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for the execution of sanctioned works etc. by Re. 1. To urge upon the Government the necessity for taking up immediately such works in the Panchayat as were provided for in the Budget of 1111 but not executed in 1111*".

Mr. President, Sir, I have tabled this motion to urge upon the Government the necessity for taking up immediately such works in the Panchayat as were provided for in the budget of 1111 but not executed in that year itself. Many an item of Panchayat work budgetted for this year were not executed that year itself may be due to various difficulties, one of them being the difficulty to finish land acquisition proceedings. There may be other reasons also. I do not find from the budget for

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next year any provision made for those works. I am speaking with reference to items of works budgetted for this year, for which no provision is made in the next year's budget for the execution of those works. My request is that the lump allotment provided in the budget to the extent of Rs. 5,000 as also the tender deductions that may be had from the works to be executed this year may be utilised for executing such works as have been left off undone in the next year.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—There is lump provision provided to the extend of Rs. 3,000 and that will be utilised for executing partly executed works in the first instance and then only other new works. The Hon'ble Member for Wadakancheri was saying that he does not find works provided for this year but not executed, do not find budgetted for next year. You know that the budget is prepared three months in advance and as such we do not know whether the works will not be taken up and finished this year itself. Therefore it is not possible to provide for such works in the next year's budget. Further more urgent works are coming up and they are included in the budget; that is all.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—The lump provision is for partly executed and un-executed works in 1111.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I think it is for the year 1110. Anyhow in view of these statements I do not press the motion. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 100.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,29,803 for Village Panchayats by Re. 1. To impress upon the Government the necessity of bringing up the prestige and level of the Panchayats by giving them better powers and by adopting new and useful fields of activity.*"

Sir, I do not want to take up much time of the House except for asking the House to read the preamble of the Panchayat Regulation and then to compare it with the existing state of affairs in the Panchayats. The preamble runs thus:—"Whereas it is expedient to provide for the organisation of village Panchayats in the Cochin State with a view to render the principal and more intelligent subjects of His Highness the Raja useful by employing them in administering justice to their neighbours,

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and also by entrusting to them certain public duties such as the construction and repair and maintenance of village roads, tanks and wells, the execution of repairs to and maintenance of minor irrigation works and the distribution and regulation water supply, improvement of sanitation, prevention of epidemics, the maintenance of water pandals, the preservation intact of all poramboke paths, lanes and canals and village reserves in local areas not included within the limits of any town constituted under Regulation I of 1085, the improvement and development of agriculture, prevention of cattle mortality and such other matters calculated to promote the health, comfort and prosperity of the inhabitants of such local areas: It is hereby enacted as follows:—"

The powers are detailed in Section 11 of the Regulation also. These powers were enlarged by the amending regulation passed in 1097 which gave these bodies control even over markets. The objects of passing the regulation and of the amendment were to confer upon these Panchayats powers more or less similar to the powers that our municipalities now enjoy. After these regulations were passed some rules were framed by the Government on the 19th Karkidagam 1107 by which almost all the powers that the Panchayats law conferred were taken away. I shall not tire the House by reading all the rules; but I will refer the House to Rule 39 which reads thus: 'All panchayat works purely of a sanitary nature costing Rs. 200 and below (except irrigation works) shall be inspected and checkmeasured by the Division Sanitary Inspectors within whose jurisdiction the village is situated and all other works costing Rs. 200 and below by any officer under him whom the Registrar of Village Panchayats may depute for the purpose. All works above Rs. 200 shall be check-measured by the Registrar of Village Panchayats. An inspection certificate in token of check measurement shall be attached by the checkmeasuring officer to the completion statement of each work which should be in the form prescribed in the P. W. Code. All irrigation works will be measured and check measured by the officers specified in Article 307 of the Land Revenue Manual to whom the bills should be sent on completion of the works'. By the rules of Karkidagam 1107 and especially by this rule 39 all the powers of these panchayats except the power of administering justice in the local area in cases valued up to Rs. 50 were taken away and now all panchayats possess absolutely no powers at all. That is the reason why we do not get proper persons to serve in the Panchayats either as presidents or as members. We have so to say to start

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again and see whether we can bring up the level of the Panchayats. I shall suggest some lines of improvements. Let us take the question of the election of members. For that a Tahsildar has now to go and do the functions of the presiding officer. I ask where is the objection in asking the president to conduct the elections. Then again, from the conduct of the election of the President, the Panchayat overseer has to go. The retiring President can very well be asked to conduct the election. If he wants to stand for election and so has resigned the Parvathiam or somebody nominated in his place will conduct the election. By these changes we can save something by way of T. A. Delay in elections can also be avoided. At the same time, we teach these bodies how to conduct their affairs. Of course it is not very often we get members like the member for Pazhayannur or the Member for Wadakancheri on Panchayat Boards. We do not get ordinarily men of their status in Panchayats simply because we do not confer even these elementary rights to the Panchayats.

Then with regard to another thing. Our Irrigation Regulation just passed by the State enjoins on the Government by Section (3) the duty of publishing in the Gazette all major, minor and petty irrigation works that have to be attended to by the State for ascertaining the works that the State has to attend. Some preliminary works have to be gone into to prepare the list and it is but proper that we ask these panchayats to go into the matter, to prepare their lists and to give their opinion to the Government as to which of the items have to be attended to at once and which can wait. If some preliminary work is done by the panchayats, the Diwan Peishkar or the Chief Engineer can easily prepare a satisfactory list. It will be a very easy work for them then to do something tangible in the matter of improving the irrigation system of the State. I do not want to go into all the other details. There are so many other matters in which we can confer power upon the panchayats without in any way affecting the efficiency or administration of the department of Panchayats. I commend this motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—Sir, on a point of information, what is the present practice of electing presidents of the Panchayat Courts; are not the presidents elected or are they Government nominees?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—They elect their own Presidents.

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മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.— ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു. പഞ്ചായത്തുകൾക്കു കിട്ടേണ്ട അധികാരത്തെപ്പറ്റി മാത്രമാണു അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞതെങ്കിൽ അതു വേണ്ടെന്നു പറയുവാനാണു ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചതു്. പഞ്ചായത്തുകളുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കു് പഞ്ചായത്തു മെമ്പർമാരേയും പ്രസിഡണ്ടിനേയും ഇളക്കി പ്രതിഷ്ഠിക്കണമെന്നാണു് അദ്ദേഹം ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതു വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യവുമാണു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ പ്രസംഗം വളരെ നന്നായിട്ടുമുണ്ടു്.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—Sir, the Hon'ble Member for Vyttila seems to have many ideas for improving the lot of the Panchayats. If he will put them in writing and submit them to the advisory committee, the whole thing can be discussed there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether the various recommendations of the conference that met barring of course the one for separation have been placed before the Government and whether the Government is taking any action with reference to those recommendations? Most of them really deal with extending the powers that are to be granted to the Panchayats and also to remove certain difficulties that are now existing in the Panchayats. These questions were considered in the conference in detail.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—All those resolutions have been placed before the Government and I have suggested that those resolutions may be placed before the Advisory Committee before final orders are passed upon them.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—I fully realise that the question has to be minutely tackled and gone into. Now that the point has been raised and there is little or no time to go into the matter in detail, I shall write to the Director of Public Health and Panchayats on the matter and on his assurance that he will place it before the advisory committee I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 101.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,29,803 for Village Panchayats by Re.1. To urge upon the Government the advisability of declaring that persons who have passed the School Final or Matriculation examination are leigible to be Panchayatdars.*"

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Mr. President, Sir, I have tabled this cut to request the Government that in the matter of qualification for membership by election to Panchayats in the qualifications enunciated in the existing rule one additional clause may be added namely that persons who have passed the School Final or similar examination may also be allowed to contest elections. Now in order that anybody may contest an election to the Panchayat he must be a taxpayer to the extent of Rs. 10 to the Government or he must be a pensioner. Those who are graduates are also allowed. These are the 3 qualifications which entitle a man to contest an election. My prayer is that persons who are undergraduates may also be allowed to contest elections and necessary modifications in the rules be made.

*മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ.—ഈ വിഷയം ഉപദേശകക്കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതും ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതും, ഗവമ്മെൻറു അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണു്.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—I may correct the Hon'ble Member. The consideration of the subject was postponed.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. എസ്സ് പണിക്കർ.— നിയമസഭയിലേയ്ക്കുള്ള സ്ഥാനാത്ഥികളുടെ യോഗ്യതയേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ യോഗ്യത പഞ്ചായത്തു് അംഗങ്ങൾക്കു വേണമെന്നുള്ളതു് എടുത്തുകളഞ്ഞു് പ്രായപൂർത്തി വന്നിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാവർക്കും സ്ഥാനാത്ഥികളായി നില്ക്കുവാനുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടു അയൽ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നടപ്പായിരിക്കുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു് കൊച്ചിയിൽ ഒരു നിയമസഭാ സാമാജികനുവേണ്ട യോഗ്യതയുണ്ടായാൽ പോരാ ഒരു പഞ്ചായത്തു മെമ്പർക്കു് എന്തു പറയുന്നതു നമുക്കു അഭിമാനകരമല്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ധരിപ്പിയ്ക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. അന്നു ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള വിവരങ്ങൾ ഗവമ്മെൻറു മനസ്സിലാക്കുകയും വേണ്ടപോലെ ചെയ്യാമെന്നു പറയുകയും ചെയ്തു. എന്നാൽ ഇനിയും അതു നടപ്പാക്കുവാൻ താമസിച്ചുപോകുന്നതു ഒരിക്കലും അഭിലഷണീയമായിട്ടു എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. സ്കൂൾ ഫൈനൽകാർക്കു മാത്രം പോരാ ഒരു ഉറപ്പിക നികുതിയുള്ളവർക്കും കൂടി സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികളായിരിയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ള ഒരു ഭേദഗതി നിയമത്തിലുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നാണു് ഉപദേഷ്ടാക്കൾ ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ ഉപദേശിച്ചതു്. അഞ്ചു ഉറപ്പിക നികുതി കൊടുക്കുന്നവരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറു സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. അതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതോടുകൂടി സ്കൂൾ ഫൈനൽകാരുടെ കാര്യം നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകാതെ അതും ഉടനെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിയ്ക്കുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.— പഞ്ചായത്തുകളിൽ സ്ഥാനാത്ഥികൾക്കു നിയമസഭാസ്ഥാനാത്ഥികളേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ യോഗ്യത വെച്ചതു്

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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ആവശ്യമില്ലാതെയാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. എങ്കിലും സ്കൂൾ ഫൈനൽ കാക്കും ഗ്രാഡുവേറ്റുകൾക്കും പഞ്ചായത്തു സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികളായി നിൽക്കാമെന്നു വരുത്തുന്നതു നല്ലതായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. പഞ്ചായത്തുകളുടെ ഭരണം നന്നാകണമെങ്കിൽ ഈ പരിഷ്കാരം വേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പഞ്ചായത്തു മെമ്പർമാരിൽ പഞ്ചായത്തു റഗുലേഷൻ വായിച്ചു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴിവുള്ളവർ വളരെ ചുരുങ്ങും. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുള്ളവരെ പഞ്ചായത്തുകളിൽ കടക്കാൻ ഇടവരുത്തുന്നതു പഞ്ചായത്തുകൾക്കു ശ്രേയസ്കരമായേ ഭവിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ.

Dr. A. R. Menon—Sir, can any voter of a constituency stand as a candidate? Is it not a general principle with regard to all elections that one who is entitled to be registered as a voter is entitled to stand as a candidate?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Not in all cases.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I am just pointing out the invidious distinction between a voter and a voter who can also stand as a candidate. Any voter is entitled to stand as a candidate. The fundamental principle is that any voter is entitled to stand as a candidate. You may restrict the voter's qualifications. You should not restrict any voter to stand as a candidate.

Mr. President.—Has a School Final got a vote in the Panchayat?

Mr. K. S. Manickam.—Yes, any adult has a vote; but he cannot stand as a candidate.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Government do appreciate the demand for better educational or literary qualifications for members of the Panchayat, but the main reason for fixing a property qualification is to secure that the Panchayatdar will be a person who will remain on the spot and exercise some influence in the everyday administration of the Panchayat. They should be people who have some vested interests in the locality. If they are mere School Finals or Graduates, the tendency will be for them to be always on the look-out for some appointments and they may not give undividual attention to their work. But since this point has now been brought to the notice of Government, Government will be prepared to examine it further.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—The question was raised in the Advisory Committee and it is still under consideration. As the Panchayat has got to deal with many matters the property qualification is necessary. In the matter of nomination the property qualification is not generally insisted on so that the depressed class people might get into it.

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Mr. President—In any way it will receive the attention of Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—The answer that has been read out by the Member in charge of the Department has not met the point raised by me nor has the Hon'ble Secretary's reply met my point. It is stated by the Hon'ble Secretary that the property qualification is insisted upon on the ground that members who stand for elections must have some vested interests in the locality in order that the everyday administration of the Panchayat may be carried on properly. The Hon'ble member in charge of the department says that the cases of unrepresented communities and backward communities would be met by nomination reserved to the Government. But that is not the point raised in my cut motion. The point specifically raised was that along with two or three items of qualifications mentioned in the rules for election this may also be added. For according to me a person who has passed the Matriculation or the S. F. examination or any higher examination is a gentleman who will be able to do the work that is expected of the panchayats much better than some persons who go there only on the property qualification. It is with a view to see that the panchayats attract persons competent to do the work that is expected of them that I have tabled this motion. I do not find any reason behind the order that was now read out to us that the consideration of this question has been postponed. I do not see any necessity for postponing such a decision.

Mr. President.—The Advisory Committee has postponed the consideration of this question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—If it has not been decided by the Committee as yet, it was the main duty of the Committee to consider that question and give a proper verdict so as to strengthen the hands of the Government in that behalf and see that the matter is accelerated. Therefore with the leave of the House I withdraw the motion.

Motion was by leave withdrawn.

The House rose for the day at 5 p. m.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

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